

## IPH Newsletter

Vol 4 Issue 1 – March 2010

### Welcome to Public Health News in Ireland

Inside this issue

- [IPH predicts dramatic rise in chronic diseases](#)
- [Climate change and health](#)
- [IPH welcomes new Belfast Health Development Unit](#)
- [CARDI: Increased grants available for ageing](#)
- [Consultations](#)
- [Events](#)

#### **IPH predicts dramatic rise in chronic diseases**

A new report *Making Chronic Conditions Count: Hypertension, Stroke, Coronary Heart Disease, Diabetes. A systematic approach to estimating and forecasting population prevalence amongst adults on the island of Ireland* estimates that by 2020, across the island there will be:

- Nearly 1.7 million adults living with high blood pressure
- Over 290,000 adults living with coronary heart disease
- Nearly 130,000 adults who have had a stroke
- Over 320,000 adults living with diabetes



Chief Medical Officers Dr Tony Holohan, Department of Health and Children (RoI) and Dr Michael McBride, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (NI) commended the study as a vital contribution to help identify need, plan and develop disease prevention and management programmes and monitor performance.

The report includes data for 2007, 2015 and 2020, for Local Health Offices in the Republic of Ireland and Local Government Districts in Northern Ireland, and for sex, age and local socio-economic circumstances.

Between 2007 and 2020, the burden of chronic conditions is expected to increase dramatically in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The study highlights the need for a stronger focus on prevention and tackling inequalities using a social determinants of health and life course perspective, and the crucial importance of building appropriate information systems to support these efforts.

### High Blood Pressure

In 2007 nearly 396,000 adults in Northern Ireland and nearly 852,000 adults in the Republic of Ireland had high blood pressure. By 2020 this is expected to rise to over 481,000 in Northern Ireland and over 1,192,000 in the Republic of Ireland.

### Coronary Heart Disease

In 2007 over 75,000 adults in Northern Ireland and over 130,000 adults in the Republic of Ireland had ever had coronary heart disease (angina or heart attack). By 2020 this is expected to rise to over 97,000 in Northern Ireland and over 195,000 in the Republic of Ireland.

### Stroke

In 2007 nearly 33,000 adults in Northern Ireland and nearly 59,000 adults in the Republic of Ireland had ever suffered a stroke. By 2020 this is expected to rise to over 42,000 in Northern Ireland and over 86,000 in Republic of Ireland.

### Diabetes (Type 1 and Type 2 combined)

In 2007 over 67,000 adults in Northern Ireland and over 143,000 adults in the Republic of Ireland had diabetes. By 2020 this is expected to rise to over 94,000 in Northern Ireland and over 232,000 in the Republic of Ireland.

#### Access the full report and supporting documents

[Making Chronic Conditions Count](#)

[Making Chronic Conditions Count: Executive Summary](#)

[Making Chronic Conditions Count: Technical Supplement](#)

#### Access data tables supporting the report

<http://www.inisphoedata.ie/phis/indicators/tables.php?resID=1981>

#### Climate change and health

*Climate change: whose health will be affected? – conference podcasts available* The impact of climate change on health, and health benefits of tackling climate change were highlighted at an IPH conference in February. Over 120 delegates gained a greater understanding of how climate change impacts on health, particularly those in more vulnerable groups, and how taking action can help reduce health inequalities. The conference was opened by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, John Gormley TD.



Prof Mike Gill, Co-Chair of the UK Climate and Health Council

Speakers included Prof Mike Gill, Co-Chair of the UK Climate and Health Council, Prof John Sweeney, NUI Maynooth, Prof Frank Convery, Professor of Environmental Policy, University

College Dublin and Mr Jim Kitchen, Head of the Sustainable Development Commission (NI).

Action to tackle climate change and its impact on health and health inequalities was highlighted by all speakers. Creating healthy sustainable places and communities needs to go hand in hand with our response to climate change and measures to respond to climate change need to be carefully planned to ensure they do not widen health inequalities.

Access the presentations and conference podcasts

<http://www.publichealth.ie/news/iphseminarclimatechangewhosehealthwillbeaffectedpresentationsavailable>

#### *NI Climate Change and Health Group launched*

A Northern Ireland Climate Change and Health Group (CCHG) was launched by Belfast Healthy Cities in December 2009. The Group has a wide membership and is chaired by Dr Elizabeth Mitchell, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, DHSSPS and vice-chair Mr John McMullan, Chief Executive, Bryson Group. The Group aims to raise awareness and build healthcare sector capacity.

Access further information

<http://www.stakeholdermedia.com/news/ni-climate-change-health-group-launches-during-copenhagen-summit>

#### **IPH welcomes new Belfast Health Development Unit**

Set up as a partnership between Belfast City Council, the Public Health Agency (PHA) and the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, the new Belfast Health Development Unit will help break down barriers and pool resources to plan and deliver health improvements and tackle health inequalities in Belfast. Speaking at the launch, NI Health Minister, Michael McGimpsey, stated partnership working is vital to promote the health and wellbeing of local communities and declared his commitment to tackling health inequalities across all communities. Dr Eddie Rooney, Chief Executive, PHA added 'By 2011, for the first time through the work of the new Unit, there will be a single Health and Wellbeing Plan for Belfast. The vision is for 'a good life in a fair City' for all the people of Belfast.' Peter McNaney, Chief Executive, Belfast City Council and William McKee, Chief Executive, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust also spoke at the event.

An 8 minute DVD 'Perspectives on Inequality' filmed with delegates at the Farset Health Inequalities Conference in October 2009 was shown at the launch. View the DVD

<http://www.belfasthealthinequalities.com>

#### **CARDI: Increased grants available for ageing**

The Centre for Ageing Research and Development in Ireland (CARDI) is increasing the grants for research on ageing issues in Ireland. It is offering up to €100,000 for research projects that will improve the lives of older people.

Call 3 of the CARDI Ageing Research Grants Programme has opened. Anyone seeking funding must submit a two page summary (PAR8 form) by noon on Wednesday 7 April 2010. The deadline for full submissions is noon on Monday 24 May 2010. Applicants need to give specific evidence that their proposal will meet a priority need in ageing research.

For more information email Paul McGill [paul@cardi.ie](mailto:paul@cardi.ie)

## Consultations

### **Department of the Environment (DoE), Draft Addendum to Planning Policy Statement 7 (PPS7), March 2010**

PPS7 seeks to protect local character, environmental quality and residential amenities within residential areas, villages and smaller settlements. Proposals have been outlined in a draft addendum to Planning Policy Statement 7 (PPS7) and have been welcomed by IPH who have asked that effective implementation systems are in place to ensure guidance is enforced. IPH believe that this policy will enhance health, especially mental health in relation to proposed new developments in residential areas.

Access DoE consultation

[http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/policy\\_publications/planning\\_statements/final\\_pps7\\_draft\\_addendum\\_4.pdf](http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/policy_publications/planning_statements/final_pps7_draft_addendum_4.pdf)

Access IPH response here

<http://www.publichealth.ie/publications/iphresponsetodepartmentofenvironmentniplanningpolicystatement7>

### **Department for Regional Development**

A number of transport proposals for Northern Ireland have recently been subject to public consultation. IPH highlighted a need to ensure transport proposals maximise their potential for health. Proposals include consultations on public transport reform, a rapid transit system for Belfast and a NI Assembly inquiry into sustainable transport. IPH responses to these consultations focused on the need for a coordinated approach to the development of active travel in NI, this included an adequate public transport system which will provide alternatives to private transport, increase physical activity and help reduce obesity.

Access consultations

- **Department for Regional Development (DRD), Belfast Rapid Transit Consultation, February 2010**
- **Department for Regional Development (DRD), Public Transport Reform Consultation, February 2010**
- **Northern Ireland Assembly Inquiry into Sustainable Transport**

Access IPH responses

<http://www.publichealth.ie/consultationresponses>

## Events

### **HIA Forum – 27 April 2010, 10am-2pm**

The next HIA Forum meeting is an opportunity to hear and discuss how HIA can support action on health inequalities. Topics include:

- The need to ensure health equity is considered in all policies, not just health. Sarah Simpson, Project Manager, WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development, will share knowledge of work in this area, providing an opportunity to learn from international experience.
- Addressing how HIA can be used to tackle health inequalities in Ireland. The recent HIA of Traveller Accommodation will be presented by the Galway Traveller Movement.

Venue: Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2.

For further information go to the HIA Forum website <http://www.publichealth.ie/ireland/hiaforum> or to register email Tara Burke [tara.burke@publichealth.ie](mailto:tara.burke@publichealth.ie)

## Health Analysts' Special Interest Group (HASIG) seminar series

HASIG was set up in December 2008 to support the health analysts' community make a more effective contribution to public health. The Group provides an opportunity for analysts to share expertise and experience with colleagues across the island of Ireland.

The 2010 HASIG seminar series aims to engage the wider public health community as well as health analysts. The series will include:

1. Indicators of the Social Determinants of Health – 5 May  
Location: Institute of Technology, Athlone, Co Westmeath

The first HASIG seminar of 2010 will explore the inclusion of social determinants of health indicators into routine health information systems. It will look at current measures, how useful these are and how they might be strengthened. Discussion will focus on how social determinants of health indicators can help address health inequalities.

2. Social Network Analysis – to be confirmed  
Location: University of Ulster, Coleraine

Social Network Analysis is a tool to describe and analyse relationships amongst social entities and to explore the implications of these relationships. Social Network Analysis techniques may be unfamiliar to analysts, statisticians or the wider public health community. This seminar will introduce these analytical techniques and describe their applications in public health.

3. Health Status Measures: Pros and Cons – to be confirmed  
Location: Institute of Technology, Waterford

People are living longer but are people enjoying good quality of life within these extra years? This seminar will look at health expectancy measures which add self-reported health measures to life table calculations. This seminar will examine some of the current debates and dilemmas about measures of health expectancy and life expectancy.

## Contact us

### **Belfast:**

The Institute of Public Health in Ireland  
Forestview  
Purdy's Lane  
Belfast  
BT8 7ZX  
Northern Ireland  
Telephone: +44 28 9064 8494  
Fax: +44 28 9064 6604  
Email: [info@publichealth.ie](mailto:info@publichealth.ie)

### **Dublin:**

The Institute of Public Health in Ireland  
5th Floor  
Bishop's Square  
Redmond's Hill  
Dublin 2  
Ireland  
Telephone: +353 1 478 6300  
Fax: + 353 1 478 6319  
Email: [info@publichealth.ie](mailto:info@publichealth.ie)